

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A production method of a racemic 3-hydroxy-3-(2-phenylethyl)hexanoic acid C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl ester, which comprises reacting magnesium, ~~haloacetic~~ chloroacetic acid C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl ester, and 1-phenyl-3-hexanone.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The production method of claim 19, wherein magnesium is activated.

22. (Original) The production method of claim 21, wherein magnesium is activated with chlorosilanes and halogenated hydrocarbon.

23. (Original) The production method of claim 22, wherein chlorosilanes is selected from the group consisting of chlorotrimethylsilane, dichlorodimethylsilane, methyltrichlorosilane and tetrachlorosilane.

24. (Original) The production method of claim 22, wherein halogenated hydrocarbon is selected from the group consisting of allyl bromide, iodomethane, iodoethane, benzyl bromide, 1,2-diiodoethane and 1,2-dibromoethane.

25. (Original) The production method of claim 19, wherein 1-phenyl-3-hexanone is obtained by condensing benzaldehyde with 2-pentanone in the presence of a base to give propyl styryl ketone, and reducing the obtained propyl styryl ketone.